



Commissioner Kristin Mayes



Cynthia Zwick of Arizona Community Action Association.



Peggy Newman of Pine View, Laverne and her dog Yack Yack



Jerry Mendoza of A.P.S.



Olivia Guerrero of PGCSC



WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

Gila County Housing Services kicked off National Weatherization Day at the Pine View Manor Apartment Complex in Payson recently. October 29th was National Weatherization Day. The purpose of the event is to increase awareness of energy consumption and to encourage all persons to do their part in conserving energy and support research of alternative energy sources. On hand to celebrate this important day were: Arizona Corporation Commissioner, Kris Mayes, Olivia Guerrero, Executive Director of Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens; Jerry Mendoza, Low Income Assistance Program Manager from Arizona Public Service; Cynthia Zwick, Executive Director of the Arizona Community Action Association; Charlie Gohman of the Arizona Department of Energy; Peggy Newman, Manager, Pine View Manor Apartments; numerous guests and the tenants of the Pine View Manor Apartments. The event also served as a kick-off for a Weatherization Special Project at the apartment complex.

Each unit of the complex will all receive new window air conditioning units, furnace inspection and repairs, duct and envelope sealing, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and a new energy-star refrigerator. The residents who are low income and elderly will benefit from this project immensely, since their comfort level will increase, as their utility consumption and bills decrease. It is estimated that the residents will see a 20% to 30% decrease on their utility bills after this weatherization project is completed. Each unit was tested using a "blower door", which is a diagnostic device that measures air leakage and pinpoints areas that need to be sealed and/or repaired. The blower door pressurizes and depressurizes a home so that the technicians can determine what measures need to be taken and seal up the unit. The compact fluorescent light bulbs are the latest, greatest energy efficiency devices and also the single most cost effective item when it comes to energy savings. These light bulbs conserve 75% in energy costs compared to incandescent light bulbs. Even though compact fluorescents are somewhat "pricey" they have a lifespan of seven to ten years which will offset the cost of purchasing the bulbs. It is our hope that the citizens of Gila County will take the time to understand their energy consumption and take measures to reduce it and to also teach our children and grandchildren the importance of conservation, as they will be impacted the most. Fossil fuel resources are becoming more elusive and expensive, so it is our responsibility to research more eco-friendly renewable energy resources.

Partners on this special project are: Gila County Housing Services, Arizona Public Service, Arizona Department of Housing and Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens.